

Alcazar Hotel (Lightner Museum of Hobbies)
75 King Street
St. Augustine
St. John's County
Florida

HABS No. FL-168

HABS
FLA
55-SAUG,
43-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE Florida	COUNTY St. Johns	TOWN OR VICINITY St. Augustine
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HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Alcazar Hotel	HABS NO. FL-168
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SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE
Lightner Museum of Hobbies

COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)
75 King Street

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1887-1889 (National Register)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Carrere & Hastings
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SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)
Marked the introduction of Spanish Renaissance elements in 19th century U.S. architecture;
distinguished in use of coquina cement poured concrete construction.

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Spanish Renaissance Revival

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)
Poured concrete with coquina shell aggregate.

SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)
Four stories, rectangular with central court, low pitched tile roof flanking
entrance towers, originally 300 guest rooms.

EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Salmon colored brick; terracotta trim; tile roof

INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)
(See attached floor plans)
Principle feature of original building was navelike Casino, additional features include indoor
recreational facilities including indoor swimming pool with steel and glass roof.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES
Closed as hotel in 1930, purchased by Lightner Museum of Hobbies in 1947 and altered to suit
museum purposes.

PRESENT CONDITION AND USE
Museum.

OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE
Original owner: Henry M. Flagler

SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.)
National Register of Historic Places, 1972, p99; 76, p151
Seeing St. Augustine, Works Progress Administration, ST. Augustine: Record Co., 1937

COMPILER, AFFILIATION Florida State Museum, HABS/HARP, HISTORIC	DATE 6-15-82
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GENERAL ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION


Symmetrical composition with flanking towers, and entrance patio, with pool and semi-tropical planting. Plan has been altered and adapted to museum purposes and original appearance and disposition of public rooms indeterminable. Principle feature of original building was indoor recreational facilities including indoor swimming pool of championship dimension, with steel and glass roof. Recreational area is still partly intact although pool has been boarded over and whole is much neglected.

The architecture is similar to the Ponce de Leon with eclectic early Spanish Renaissance detail. Construction is the same coquina-cement mass concrete used on the Ponce de Leon and the 6 to 1 mix is probably the same.

The building was constructed on made land achieved by filling Maria Sanchez Creek.

Detailed information for the construction of this building is less well documented than the Ponce de Leon.

Prepared by


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Date

August 1961

